

## After Action Report 201 - Women Vet & Family Services

This year, we served 1,949 veterans over the two days and it is estimated that 10% were women (those numbers are not yet available from the Arizona Veterans StandDown Coalition) - the same as last year. There were 214 female veterans who signed in as they entered into the Women Veteran section, but only 169 questionnaires were used for the information below. The discrepancy is due to (1) not obtaining the document as the veteran left or (2) the woman misrepresented herself as a veteran and was denied service.

Women veterans have a separate entry into StandDown so they are able to avoid standing in lines with male vets.. Eligibility, Registration & Bag Check services were also available to women vets in this secured area Thursday and Friday. When other services outside of the women's area were needed, a female escort was provided to her so that she was not alone.

Mary Kay representatives generously provided personal mini-makeovers (32 "Pamper Sessions") Friday for the 7th year in a row. They provided Mary Kay products to every guest. Women were able to have chair massages all day Friday from Arizona College in the morning and from Cortiva Institute in the afternoon. We also had a stylist stationed in the area part of the day Thursday. Jazzy Z's Catering Services provided meals for our women veterans on Thursday.

For the 2nd year, we continue to have most of our guests on Day One. In 2016, there were 120 guests sign in on Thursday and 79 on Friday. In 2017, we had 138 on Thursday and 76 signed in Friday.

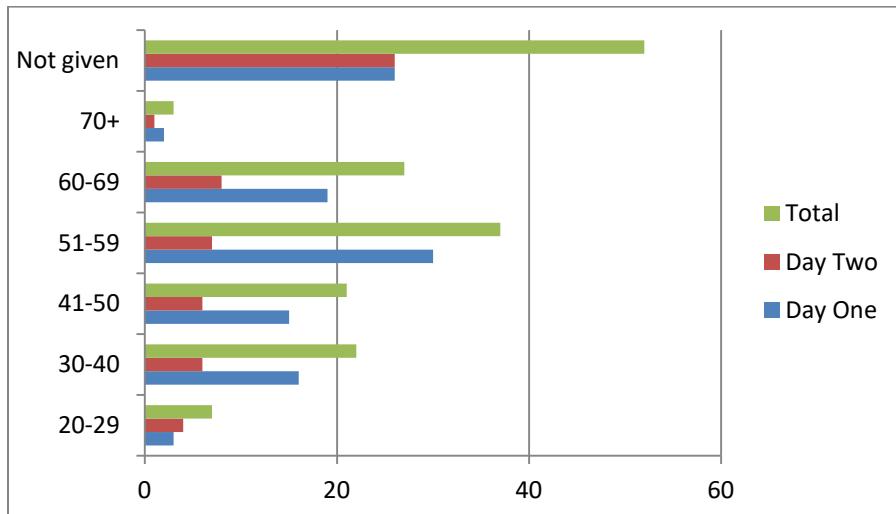
In an attempt to ensure that veterans were not preoccupied by caring for their children who they could not leave at home, we have offered childcare for the past 3 years. The licensed and bonded childcare providers took care of 17 children while their veteran parents sought services. In addition, there were 325 veteran families who came into the section to pick out toys, school supplies and clothing for their children.

- Ronald McDonald paid a visit on Thursday to the Children's Section and was encouraged to visit the other guests as he left the Coliseum.
- Rodo Sofranac came to read some of his children's books on Thursday, and donated books for us to bring back next year. He is a children's book author and all profits are used for children's literacy (he also brought books in Spanish to be delivered to a special group of children while here).

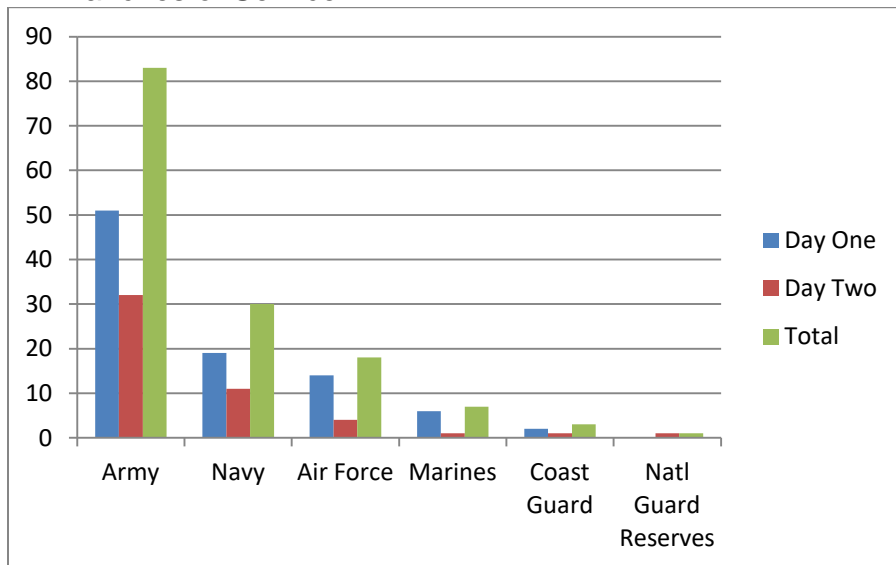
### New Services:

- An area for breastfeeding is now available (we had 2 women in need last year).
- In an attempt to provide a safe/quiet respite, we had an area for women vets to come in to sit and relax (with nature sounds to mask some of the noise).
- The National Council of Jewish Women graciously assumed responsibility for obtaining children's clothes and staffing the area during StandDown, which went very well.
- We asked our guests to fill out a shopping list so that we could plan for sizes of requested items next year.
- A questionnaire was requested from each guest to see if they were satisfied with service. Of 169 questionnaires, only one responded that they had a negative experience with a volunteer during her visit.

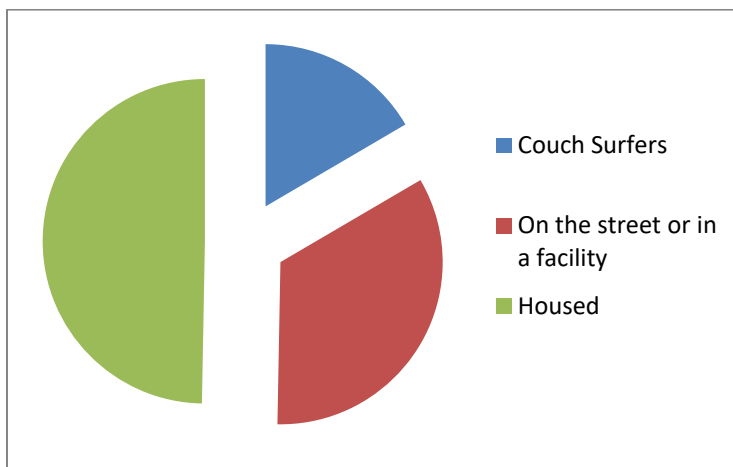
## Ages of Women Veteran Guests



## Branches of Service



## Housing status reported by the women veterans



The number of women veterans attending the event has increased. The focus has shifted from being specifically for women veterans who are literally on the street to helping all veterans understand their benefits and assisting them in applying for benefits they have earned through honorable service to their country.

**Women Veterans  
Served**

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
#	44	40	48	90	130	157	176	179	214

Co-Chairs, Women Veteran & Family Services  
Arizona StandDown

Tammie Smith  
(623) 256-5634 Cell

Gabe Forsberg  
Home (602) 237-4332  
GabeForsberg@gmail.com